



[Home](#) > [Statistics](#) > [Labour](#) > [Earnings and working conditions](#) > [Employee earnings](#) > August 2024

✓ Latest release

Employee earnings

Weekly earnings of employees, including distribution of earnings and hourly earnings, by State, Occupation, Industry and Qualifications

Reference period August 2024

Released 9/12/2024

On this page

- [Key statistics](#)
- [Weekly earnings](#)
- [Hourly earnings](#)
- [Distribution of earnings](#)
- [States and territories](#)
- [Occupation](#)
- [Industry](#)
- [Educational qualifications](#)
- [Multiple job-holders](#)
- [Data downloads](#)
- [Methodology](#)

Feedback

Key statistics

In August 2024:

- Median employee earnings in main job was \$1,396 per week, up \$96 (7.4%) since August 2023.
- Median hourly earnings in main job was \$40.00 per hour, up \$0.30 since August 2023.

Statistics from the [Characteristics of Employment \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/characteristics-employment-australia/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/characteristics-employment-australia/latest-release) survey are also published in three other topic-based releases:

- [Working arrangements \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/working-arrangements/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/working-arrangements/latest-release)
- [Trade union membership \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/trade-union-membership/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/trade-union-membership/latest-release)
- [Labour hire workers \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/labour-hire-workers/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/labour-hire-workers/latest-release)

Median weekly earnings in main job

	Aug-24	Aug-23	Aug-19	Aug-23 to Aug-24 (% change)
Employees				
Males	\$1,577	\$1,500	\$1,280	5.1%
Females	\$1,200	\$1,150	\$950	4.3%
Persons	\$1,396	\$1,300	\$1,100	7.4%
Full-time employees				
Males	\$1,789	\$1,700	\$1,473	5.2%
Females	\$1,598	\$1,500	\$1,250	6.5%
Persons	\$1,700	\$1,600	\$1,375	6.3%

Earnings guide

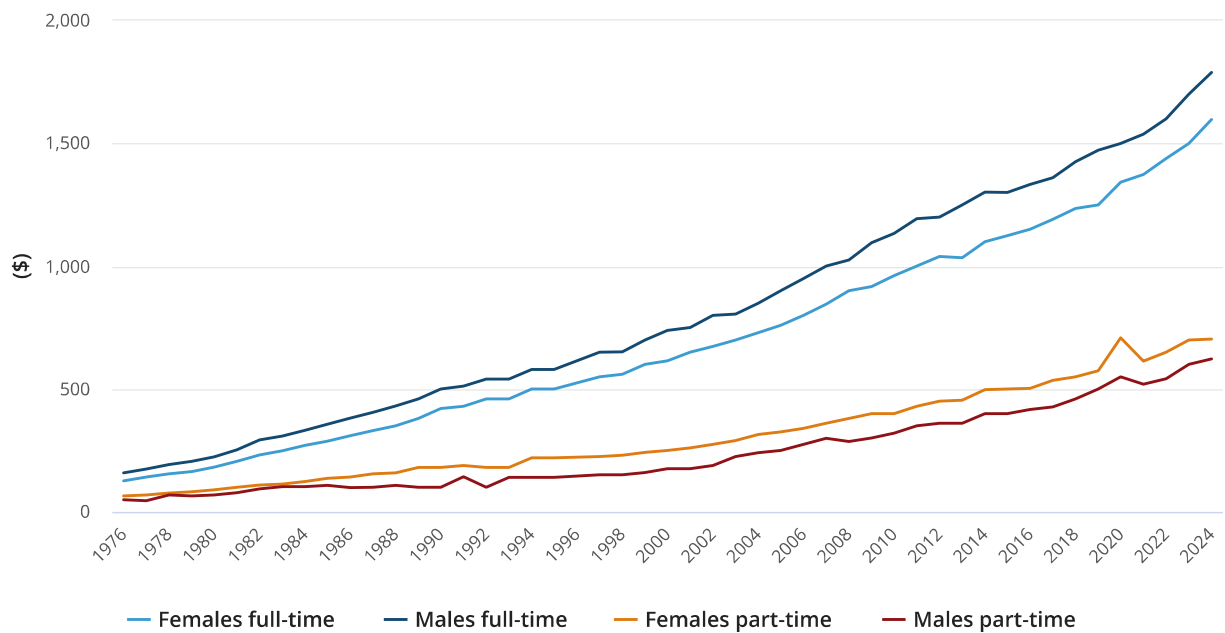
To learn more about the earnings data collected by the ABS, refer to our [Guide to labour statistics \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/). It provides summary information on labour market topics including [Earnings \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide/\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide/) data.

Weekly earnings

In August 2024, median weekly earnings for employees was \$1,396, up \$96 from \$1,300 in August 2023. Median weekly earnings has increased at a faster rate for women than men over the past 5 years, in part because the proportion of women working full-time has increased.

Median weekly earnings in main job, by sex and full-time or part-time status





Hourly earnings

In August 2024, the median hourly earnings for employees was \$40.00, up from \$39.70 in August 2023. For men, the median hourly earnings rose 90 cents to \$41.70 in August 2024, while for women the median hourly earnings rose 50 cents to \$38.90.

Median hourly earnings in main job

	Aug-24	Aug-23	Aug-19	Aug-23 to Aug-24 (% change)
Males	\$41.70	\$40.80	\$34.30	2.2%
Females	\$38.90	\$38.40	\$31.30	1.4%
Persons	\$40.00	\$39.70	\$32.50	0.7%

Distribution of earnings

In August 2024:

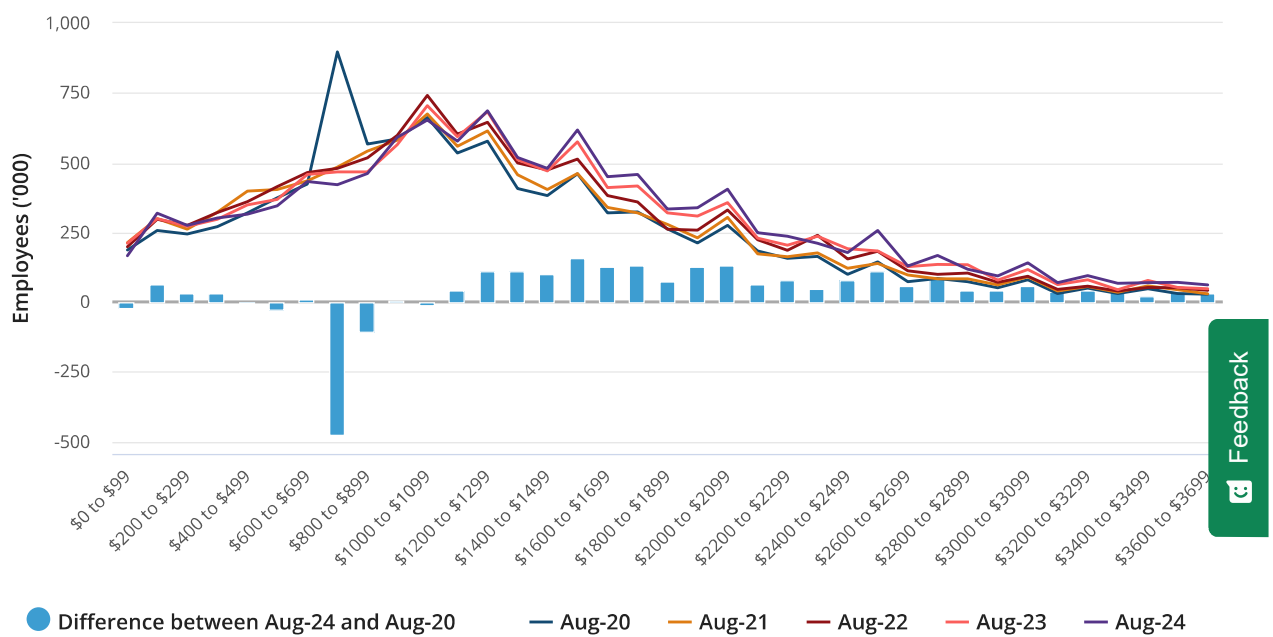
- 25% of employees earned less than \$895 per week in their main job (25th percentile).
- 50% of employees earned less than \$1,396 (50th percentile/median).
- 75% of employees earned less than \$2,052 (75th percentile).
- 90% of employees earned less than \$3,038 (90th percentile).

Earnings for all percentiles increased. The largest increase was seen in the 25th percentile, increasing by 9.1% since August 2023. The percentile with the lowest growth was the bottom 75th percentile, increasing 3.3% since August 2023.

Distribution of weekly earnings in main job

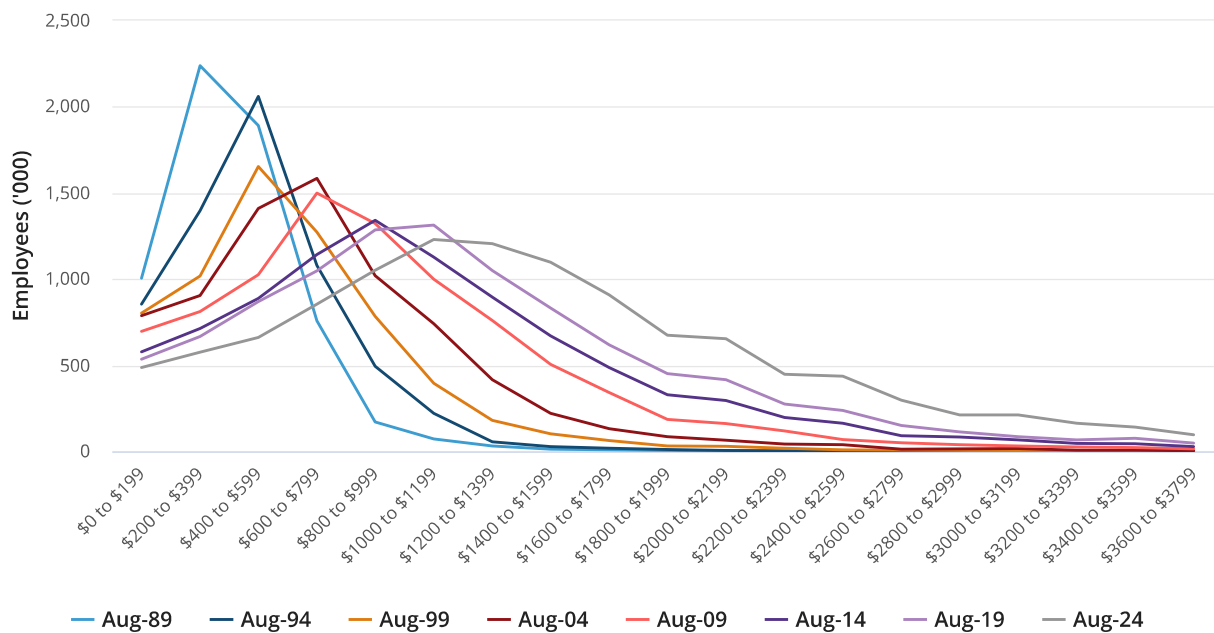
	Aug-24	Aug-23	Aug-19	Aug-23 to Aug-24 (% change)
10th Percentile	\$440	\$412	\$350	6.8%
25th Percentile	\$895	\$820	\$700	9.1%
50th Percentile	\$1,396	\$1,300	\$1,100	7.4%
75th Percentile	\$2,052	\$1,987	\$1,657	3.3%
90th Percentile	\$3,038	\$2,846	\$2,419	6.7%

Weekly earnings distribution in main job



Note: In August 2020 there was a larger number of people than usual earning around \$750 per week, which was the amount of the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

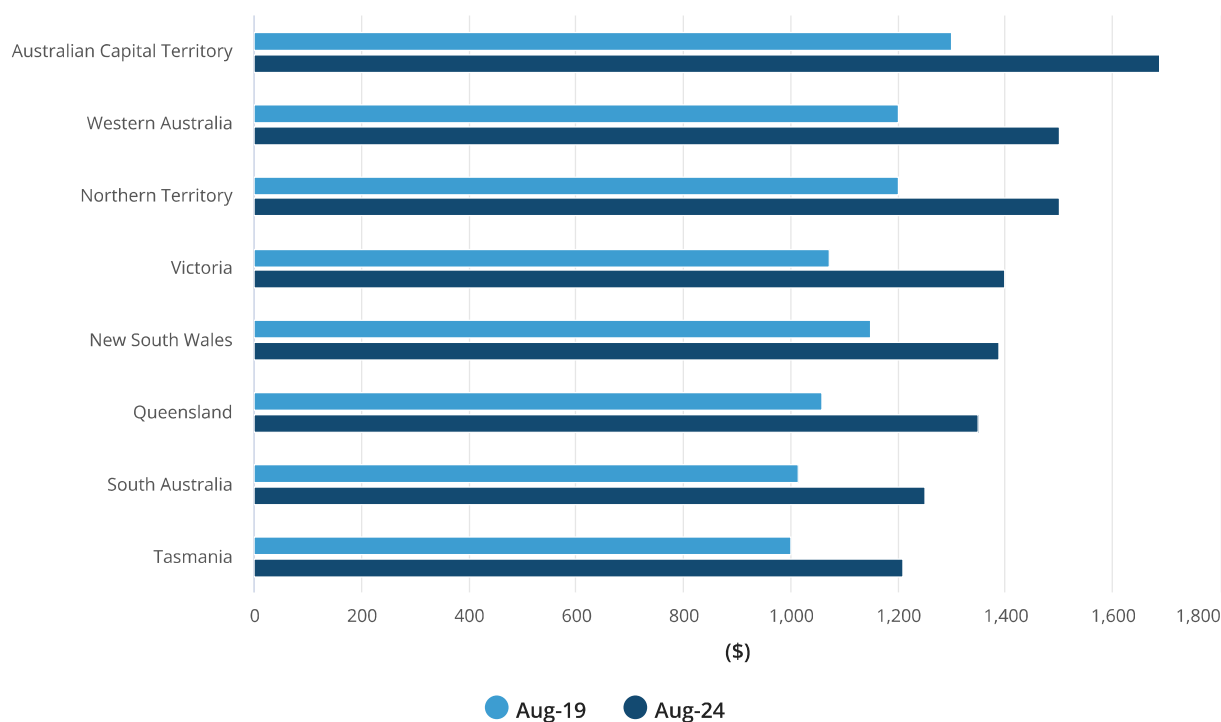
Weekly earnings distribution in main job - August 1989 to August 2024



States and territories

The state or territory with the highest median weekly earnings in August 2024 was the Australian Capital Territory at \$1,688 per week, followed by the Northern Territory and Western Australia (both \$1,500). The lowest were Tasmania (\$1,208 per week), South Australia (\$1,250) and Queensland (\$1,350).

Median weekly earnings in main job, by state and territory



Of the state capital cities, Perth had the highest median weekly earnings (\$1,500 per week), followed by Melbourne (\$1,450) and Sydney (\$1,416).

Outside the capital cities, the highest median weekly earnings were in regional Western Australia (\$1,442 per week) and the lowest was regional South Australia (\$1,100).

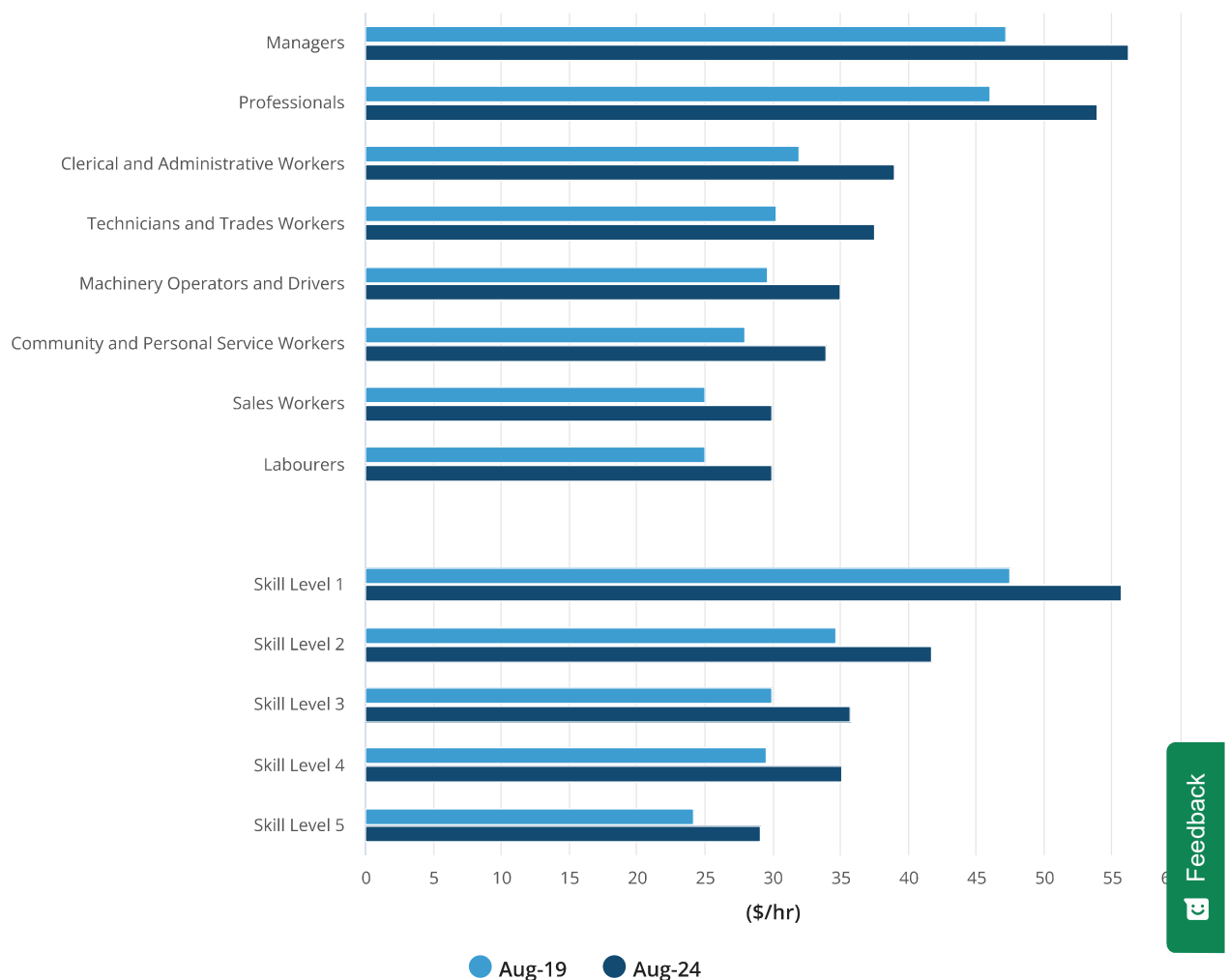
Feedback

Occupation

In August 2024, the occupation groups with highest median weekly earnings were Managers (\$2,100 per week) and Professionals (\$1,827). The lowest were Sales workers (\$714) and Labourers (\$900).

Managers and Professionals also had the highest hourly rates (\$56.20 and \$53.90), while Sales workers and Labourers had the lowest hourly rates (both \$30.00). The gap between the median hourly rates for occupation groups is smaller than for the total weekly earnings measure, partly due to the difference in hours typically worked for each occupation.

Median hourly earnings in main job, by occupation and skill level



1. Data is coded to ANZSCO ver 1.2. For more information on Occupations and Skill level, refer to [ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/allprimarymainfeatures/4AF138F6DB4FFD4BCA2571E200096BAD?opendocument\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/allprimarymainfeatures/4AF138F6DB4FFD4BCA2571E200096BAD?opendocument).

The sub-major occupation groups with the highest median weekly earnings in August 2024 were:

- Chief Executives, General Managers and Legislators - \$2,669.
- Specialist Managers - \$2,400.
- ICT Professionals - \$2,284.

The sub-major groups with the lowest median weekly earnings in August 2024 were:

- Food Preparation Assistants - \$368.
- Sales Support Workers - \$600.
- Sales Assistants and Salespersons - \$600.
- Hospitality Workers - \$600.

Between 2019 and 2024, the sub-major group with the highest average growth in median weekly earnings was Sports and Personal Service Workers (7.6% p.a.).

Industry

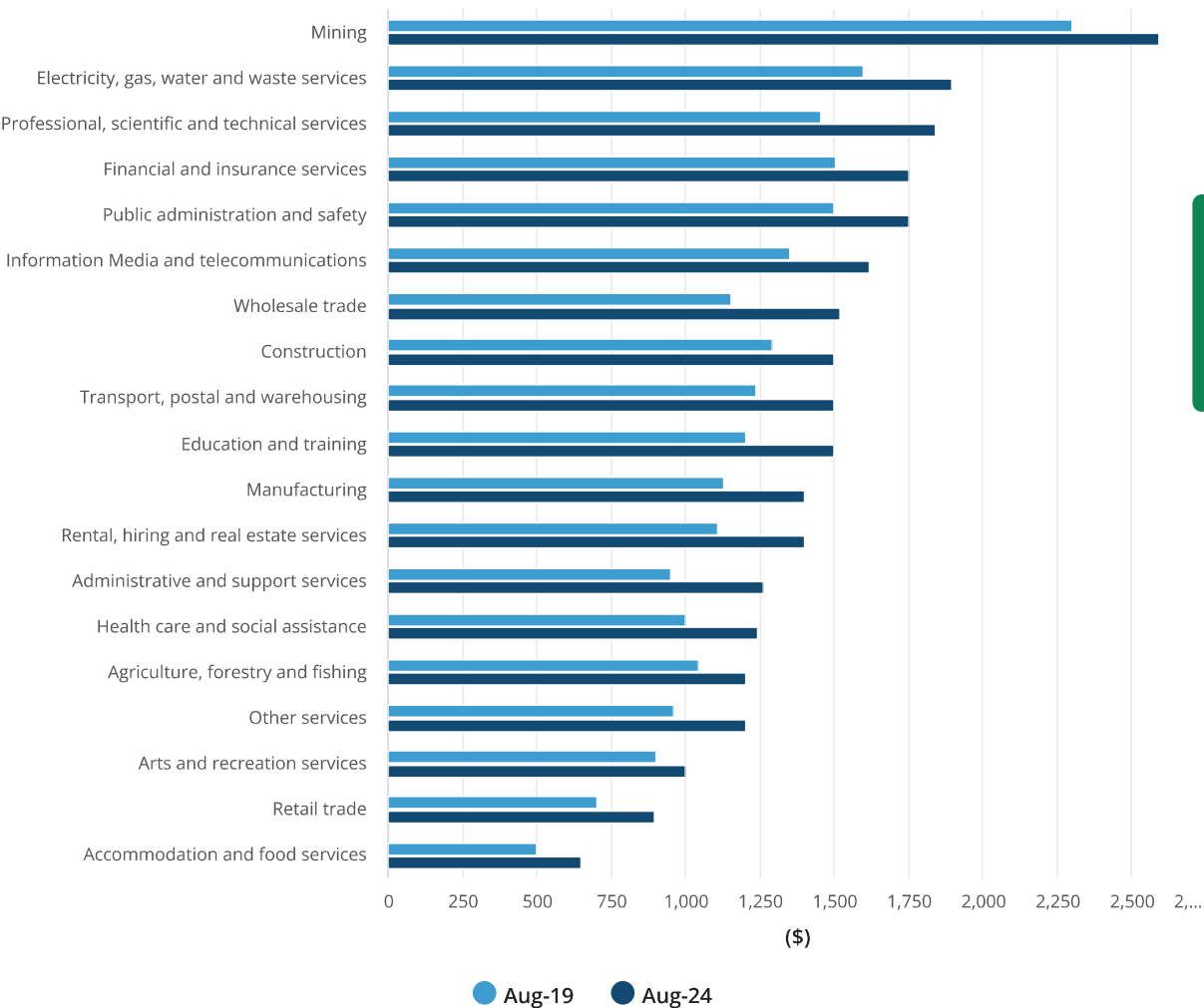
In August 2024, the industries with the highest median weekly earnings were:

- Mining (\$2,593 per week, up from \$2,400 in August 2023).
- Electricity, gas, water and waste services (\$1,895, down from \$1,900).
- Professional, scientific and technical services (\$1,841, up from \$1,730).

The industries with the lowest median weekly earnings were:

- Accommodation and food services (\$650 per week, up from \$640 in August 2023).
- Retail trade (\$893, up from \$876).
- Arts and recreation services (\$1,000, up from \$908).

Median weekly earnings in main job, by industry

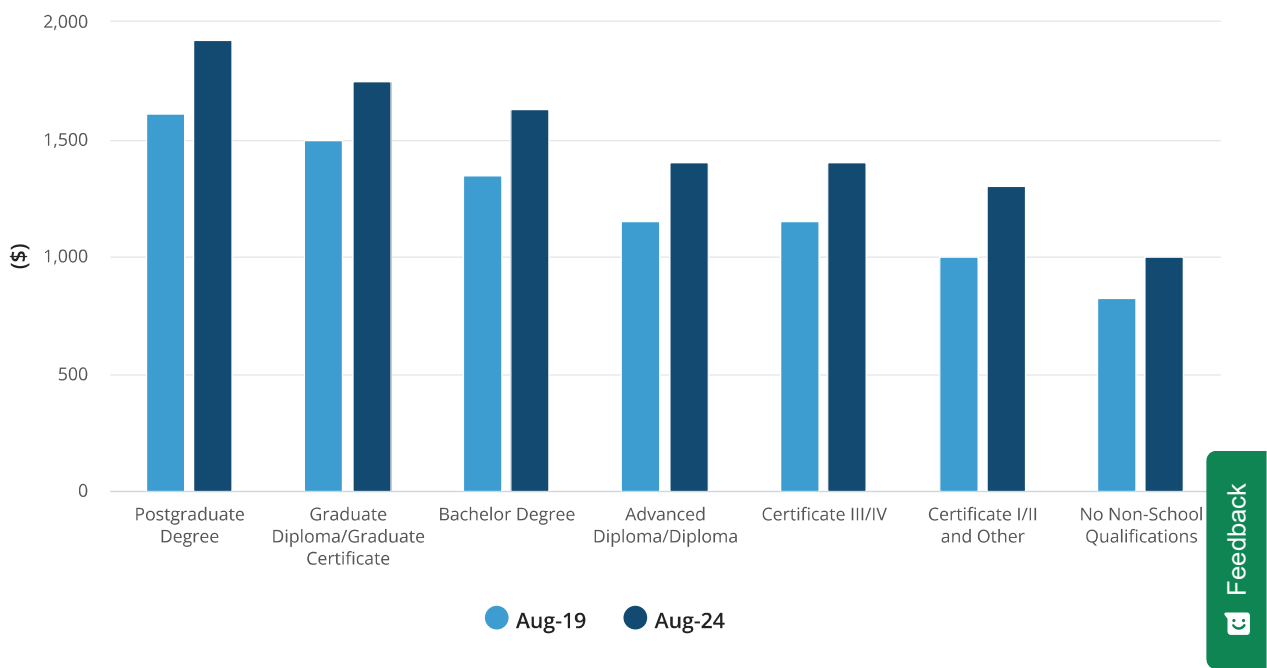


1. For more information on Industries, refer to [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(ANZSIC\) \(https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1292.0\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1292.0).

Educational qualifications

In August 2024, median weekly earners were highest amongst employees with a postgraduate degree (\$1,925 per week), and were lowest for those without non-school qualifications (\$1,000).

Median weekly earnings in main job, by highest educational qualification



1. For more information on educational attainment, refer to [Australian Standard Classification of Education \(ASCED\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1272.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1272.0>).

Multiple job-holders

The best source of data on the incidence of multiple job-holding, and the characteristics of multiple-job-holders, is the quarterly [Multiple job-holders \(/statistics/labour/jobs/multiple-job-holders/latest-release\)](#) release.

In August 2024, there were 427,000 employees who were multiple job holders. Of those who received employee earnings in both their main and second jobs:

- median weekly earnings from their main job was \$1,000 per week
- median weekly earnings from their second job was \$324 per week

In comparison, median weekly earnings for single job-holders was \$1,400 per week.

Of the 3.8 million people who earned less than \$1000 per week in their main job, 7.1% (268,200) had a second job. For people who earned \$1000 or more per week, 4.1% had a second job.

Data downloads

Employee earnings

Download all (125.71 MB)

Table 1 - Employee earnings, 1975-2024

Download XLSX
[930.86 KB]

Table 2 - Median earnings for employees by demographic characteristics

Download XLSX
[6.83 MB]

Table 3 - Distribution of earnings for employees by industry

Download XLSX
[38.74 MB]

Table 4a - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation and skill level

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[28.27 MB]

Table 4b - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation (detailed)

Download XLSX
[11.49 MB]

Table 5 - Distribution of earnings for employees by educational qualification

Download XLSX
[21.88 MB]

Table 6 - Median earnings for employees by industry, occupation and educational qualification

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[15.21 MB]

Table 7 - Median earnings for multiple job holders

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[4.98 MB]

Table 8 - Distribution of earnings, 1989-2024

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[6.81 MB]

Feedback

Microdata and TableBuilder

August 2024 Characteristics of Employment data will be released in [Tablebuilder \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder\)](#) and microdata in ABS [DataLab \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab\)](#) (as a supplementary file for the [Longitudinal Labour Force \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia\)](#) (LLFS) microdata) on 19 December 2024. For more information, refer to [Microdata and TableBuilder: Characteristics of Employment \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/characteristics-employment-australia\)](#).

Previous catalogue number

This release uses ABS catalogue number 6337.0.

Methodology

[Characteristics of Employment, Australia methodology, August 2024](#)

